

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 8, 18, 21, and 23 are pending in this application, each of which is independent. Claims 1-7, 9-17, 20, 22, and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 8, 18, 21, and 23 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 8 and 18 were objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Without conceding the propriety of the outstanding rejections, Claims 8 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit that they are therefore allowable and allowance of those claims is requested.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 21 and 23, those claims have been amended to include the features recited in Claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 21 and 23 are patentable over the art of record for reasons similar to Claim 18, and allowance of those claims is also requested.

Claim 23 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended that claim to recite a program embodied in a computer-readable medium. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claim is clearly directed to statutory subject matter, and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that each of pending Claims 8, 18, 21, and 23 is allowable. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, DC office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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